

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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Case No. 3:16-cv-00627-MMD-CSD

ORDER

AIRELL JOSHUA SAWYER,  
Petitioner,  
v.  
WARDEN BAKER, et al.,  
Respondents.

The Court previously granted a stay and administratively closed Petitioner Airell Joshua Sawyer's 28 U.S.C. § 2254 federal habeas corpus action pending the completion of his state postconviction litigation. (ECF No. 91.) Sawyer has filed a motion to reopen this case because his state litigation has concluded. (ECF No. 95.) Respondents have indicated that they do not oppose the motion. (ECF No. 96.) Good cause appearing, this action is reopened.

It is therefore ordered that Petitioner's motion to reopen the case (ECF No. 95) is granted.

The Clerk of Court is further directed to reopen this action.

It is further ordered that Petitioner file an amended petition within 60 days of the date of this order.

It is further ordered that Respondents file a response to the amended petition, or an appropriate motion to dismiss, within 60 days of service of the amended petition. Any requests for relief by Petitioner by motion will otherwise be subject to the normal briefing schedule under the Local Rules. Any response filed should comply with the remaining provisions below under Habeas Rule 5.

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1 It is further ordered that any procedural defenses raised by Respondents in this  
2 case be raised together in a single consolidated motion to dismiss. In other words, any  
3 procedural defenses raised should not be raised either in seriatum fashion in multiple  
4 successive motions to dismiss or embedded in the answer. Procedural defenses omitted  
5 from such motion to dismiss will be subject to potential waiver. Respondents should not  
6 file a response in this case that consolidates their procedural defenses, if any, with their  
7 response on the merits, except under 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b)(2) as to any unexhausted  
8 claims clearly lacking merit. If Respondents seek dismissal of unexhausted claims under  
9 § 2254(b)(2): (a) they should do so within the single motion to dismiss, not in the answer;  
10 and (b) they should specifically direct their argument to the standard for dismissal under  
11 § 2254(b)(2) set forth in *Cassett v. Stewart*, 406 F.3d 614, 623-24 (9th Cir. 2005). In short,  
12 no procedural defenses, including exhaustion, should be included with the merits in an  
13 answer. All procedural defenses, including exhaustion, instead must be raised by motion  
14 to dismiss.

15 It is further ordered that, in any answer filed on the merits, Respondents must  
16 specifically cite to and address the applicable state court written decision and state court  
17 record materials, if any, regarding each claim within the response as to that claim.

18 It is further ordered that Petitioner has 45 days from service of the answer, motion  
19 to dismiss, or other response to file a reply or opposition, with any other requests for relief  
20 by Respondents by motion otherwise being subject to the normal briefing schedule under  
21 the Local Rules.

22 It is further ordered that any additional state court record exhibits filed by either  
23 Petitioner or Respondents be filed with a separate index of exhibits identifying the exhibits  
24 by number. The CM/ECF attachments filed should be identified by the number of the  
25 exhibit in the attachment. Each exhibit must be filed as a separate attachment.

26 It is further ordered that the parties send courtesy copies of any responsive  
27 pleading or motion and indices of exhibits only to the Reno Division of this Court. Courtesy  
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1 copies are to be mailed to the Clerk of Court, 400 S. Virginia St., Reno, NV, 89501, and  
2 directed to the attention of "Staff Attorney" on the outside of the mailing address label.  
3 No further courtesy copies are required unless and until requested by the Court.

4 DATED THIS 4<sup>th</sup> Day of April 2025.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Miranda M. Du', is written over a horizontal line.

MIRANDA M. DU  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE